

PURLEY PARISH NEWS

APRIL 2005



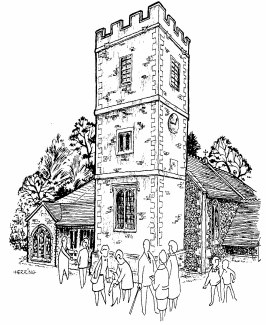
Psalm 119:27
Help me
understand the
meaning of your
commandments,
and I will
meditate on your
wonderful
miracles.

35P

For the Church & Community of
PURLEY ON THAMES

ST. MARY THE VIRGIN

PURLEY ON THAMES



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BAPTISMS, WEDDINGS AND FUNERALS

All enquiries should be made to the Rector

www.stmarythevirgin.fsnet.co.uk

A NEW COMMANDMENT

Dear Friends

Before I went on my recent holiday, I spent some time reading up on the countries I was about to visit. The guidebooks were valuable, but more so were the congenial and well-informed guides. They knew about the essential sights and excursions not to be missed, and offered words of advice as to how and how not to behave in order that our visit should be safe and enjoyable. As we were visiting China and some sensitive parts of South East Asia, very often this advice appeared like a list of *do nots*, but as we travelled it became increasingly clear that the pointers were very much for our own good.



Few people like being told what to do even if it is for their own good. This was reflected in the responses and attitudes revealed in the recent survey of 40,000 people who were asked to suggest a set of new commandments that are relevant to the way we live today.

Most people on Channel 4's recent programme, *The New Ten Commandments* could not even remember the *old* ten and when prompted by Jon Snow could not see the point of them anyway. Out went the rather fierce *do nots* and in came some moral injunctions, which although positive and generous in spirit failed to acknowledge that the whole point of a commandment is that someone else tells you what to do. In the case of the Ten Commandments, that *someone* is God himself and He gave us the commandments to promote a just, free and equal society. They come from God as *The Maker's instructions* for a better world.

Some people regard the Ten Commandments as wholly negative and seeking to curb our freedom, but in the larger scheme of things they are a firm "No" to a life lived without God and are signs of his care for us. They are designed like barriers to prevent us using our freedom to destroy ourselves and have been the bedrock of moral behaviour for millions of people around the world and no less than three world religions uphold them: Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

I was rather intrigued by the list of *new commandments* because in some form or another they are all to be found in the bible, not necessarily as a direct commandment, but certainly in the guidelines that Jesus gave to his followers. Jesus' teachings contained new values and attitudes towards God, towards our neighbour and towards life. He reinterpreted the Ten Commandments for everyday living.

The Ten Commandments have always been a cause for questions and debate. Jesus himself was once asked, "Which commandment is the most important of all?" He responded by naming not one but two. Jesus told his disciples that the first commandment is to love God and the second is to love one's neighbour as one's self. (Mark 12 v30-31) What Jesus did,

was to put the two together, emphasizing the fact that they are essentially interrelated. In a sense, there is only one commandment – the commandment to love.

And the winning new commandment, - *Treat others as you would like to be treated*, surely that was what Jesus said! I think that I'll try to stick to God's version as my guide through life. Will you?

Jean

SERVICES WITH PRAYER FOR HEALING

The ministry of the laying on of hands continues to be available at St. Mary's Church on a monthly basis, but if anyone would like prayer for any aspect of healing, at another time please contact the Rector (941 7727).

The next service will be on Sunday 17 April, at 9.30am

PARISH REGISTERS

FUNERAL

23 February	Trevor Graham Ford (burial at Beech Road cemetery)
24 February	Gladys Edna Jamieson, aged 80 years (cremation)
8 March	Geoffrey Daniel Rawkins, aged 77 years (cremation)

GLADYS JAMIESON

My family and I would like to thank all those who sent cards to Gladys during her stay in hospital and for the prayers offered on her behalf. These were a great comfort to my family and I.

She knew three days before Christmas that she had only a short time left and had already selected her favourite hymns and poems for her cremation service.

In the New Year, we were fortunate to get her into the Duchess of Kent House where the tender care shown by the staff in their efforts to counter the continual rise in the level of pain, was amazing. However, after five short weeks, on St. Valentines Day, Gladys died peacefully in her sleep.

Since then, we have been inundated with more cards and letters and I would like to thank all those who wrote offering sympathy and paying such lovely compliments to Gladys. These were very much appreciated.

Les Jamieson

CHURCH SERVICES

3 Apr	9.30 a.m.	Family Worship
	11.15 a.m.	Holy Communion
	6.00 p.m.	Holy Communion
10 Apr	9.30 a.m.	Family Worship
	11.15 a.m.	Holy Communion
17 Apr	9.30 a.m.	Family Communion – with prayer for healing
	11.15 a.m.	Morning Worship
	6.00 p.m.	Evening Worship
24 Apr	9.30 a.m.	Family Worship
	11.15 a.m.	Holy Communion
1 May	9.30 a.m.	Family Worship
	11.15 a.m.	Holy Communion
	6.00 p.m.	Holy Communion

Pray for Purley

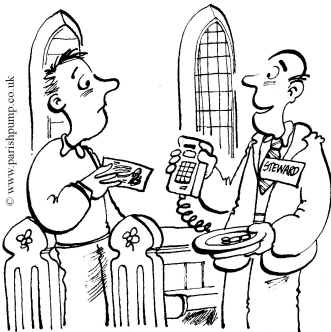
The next opportunity to meet with Christians from a number of different churches will be on Monday 25 April, at 8 p.m. at St. Mary's Church.

If you would like further details, please contact:

Sally Robertson 962 5978 sallyrobertson@waitrose.com
Chris Rayers 942 1880 c.rayers@talk21.com

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

Don't forget! Wednesday 20 April, 8 p.m. at St Mary's Church.



"...as an alternative to cash why not Chip and Pin?!"

With Chip & PIN becoming the preferred way to handle debit and credit card transactions, it has become even more important to protect your PIN. Always ensure that you conceal the keypad as you type your PIN, both at sales counters and cash machines.

There have been a number of cunning devices found attached to cash machines that read your card and video you pressing the keypad. If you see anything suspicious about a cash machine, **do not use it**, and contact bank staff immediately.



Received via email:

Parish Council in profligate waste of taxpayers' money shocker! That is the message that shouts out at me from the Parish Council report in the March magazine. They are planning to spend £64,270 on general ADMINISTRATION.

That is £22 per house on administration, compared to £13 spent on useful facilities. National politicians are talking a lot at the moment about reducing bureaucracy and concentrating money on public services; perhaps our local politicians should follow suit. ;-)

Name supplied

It would appear that the amount shown under General Administration in the Parish Council explanation of the 2005/2006 budget has been misunderstood. These are items of expenditure, which remain under the full administrative control of the whole Parish Council and have not been devolved to a service committee. They cover many individual items but can be summarised as:

Employment costs (P/T. Clerk, P/T. Caretaker & Internal Auditor)	19800
Website provision	2000
Office/Emergency control room costs/maintenance	5660
Members/Officers meetings/training/costs	785
Insurance	8000
Machinery replacement/maintenance	5000
Sundry site costs (Goosecroft)	3300
Fees, subscriptions & legal costs	1975
Provision for wardens/Village Plan	10000
Contingency	3000
Grants to local organisations	4750
Total	64270

Brian J Smith

Clerk to Purley on Thames Parish Council

COMMUNITY POLICING UPDATE

As the year rolls on the advent of community policing throughout Thames Valley is nearly upon us. Of course, we in Pangbourne know this can already work and have the crime figures to prove it. A 17.9% overall reduction in crime since April last year can't be sniffed at and we have proved the theory that working together with partners and communities is the best way to tackle crime.

Soon this theory will be put to the test throughout the Force with neighbourhood policing becoming the norm in the three counties. Hopefully, other areas will be able to report as good a set of figures as us. I must say once again that this is not just a policing achievement; it is a

community achievement thanks to the dedication of individuals which can "think outside the box" and see that quality of life issues such as speeding, anti social behaviour, graffiti etc are not just something which can be handed to the police and magically solved overnight. It is down to you all in the community doing your bit. Back in the 80s (remember them?!) a popular satellite music television channel used to have a presenter who ended his voiceovers with this: "If you ain't part of the solution, you're part of the problem." I could not agree more and we have proved that as a community.

That said, speeding is still an issue in Pangbourne. Speeding traffic was identified as one of your main concerns during the consultation process we held last year and we have made considerable efforts to enforce speeding, reduce casualties and build awareness of speed restrictions. At the end of the day, the speed we drive is a personal choice (albeit one hopefully influenced by the law!) and we can't monitor speed 24/7. All we can do is carry on reminding people that 137 people – even so, a 12.7% reduction on 2003, but still 137 too many – were killed on our roads in 2004 and hope that you are not the next one.

NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING UPDATE

With the transition to Neighbourhood Policing, the Burghfield ward will form part of a larger neighbourhood taking in Mortimer, Beech Hill, Aldermaston and Sulhamstead. This means that the neighbourhood will increase from 6,000 residents to 16,000. The current Neighbourhood Action Group will remain but with representation from the other wards. The staffing for the new neighbourhood will be three police officers, details below.

The new Pangbourne Neighbourhood is Streatley, Ashampstead, Aldworth, Basildon, Pangbourne, Tidmarsh and Sulham (Tilehurst and Purley will stay on board until another Neighbourhood Action Group is set up). The neighbourhood officers for this area will be PCs Jayne Richard and Rachaël Mylum; you may have seen these two out on their bikes in the area!

Theale Neighbourhood will be Theale, Englefield, Bradfield and Beenham, with PCs Ian Henderson and Kity Edmond looking after this patch, and they have already met with parish councillors and are keen to get involved with community policing as they both agree this is what they went into the job for. Both are experienced officers with many years in the Force between them.

Finally, Burghfield Neighbourhood will consist of Aldermaston, Padworth, Ufton Nervet, Sulhamstead, Burghfield, Wokefield, Stratfield Mortimer and Beech Hill, and PCs Paul Ewins, Gary Seymour and Andy Tomlinson will be looking after this neighbourhood.

All can be contacted through the police enquiry centre on 0845 8 505 505.

Inspector Andy Talbot

PANGBOURNE HERITAGE

Pangbourne's newly formed heritage group are hosting an exhibition in the Village Hall at Pangbourne on 14 and 15 May to commemorate the 60th anniversary of VE Day. On display are artefacts, personal testimonies, and audiovisual displays connected to the fascinating facts uncovered in *Pangbourne at War (1939-1945)*.

Episodes of history that have been examined include the role of Royal Engineer regiments practising for D-day, and the invasion of occupied Europe, on the Thames; the American airborne troops; secrecy surrounding at least two plane crashes; and the home front and domestic life.

The exhibition will be open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. both days, and we hope that many of the unanswered questions or gaps in information will be filled for those visiting the displays.

Taste some cakes made to second world war recipes, find out how to build a bailey bridge, and celebrate the bravery of those flying in the skies above the village. We hope to see you there.

Lesley Crimp

MESSAGE FROM HOME FARM

We finished drilling the barley into an excellent dusty seedbed. How does the old saying go? "One for the pigeon, one for the crow, one to rot and one to grow" (not quite correct!) Well, I think the crows would have had more than their fair share going by the numbers that followed me up and down the field, although few will rot this year as we are desperately dry. Have you noticed how still and clear the river is with no water waiting to come down from the hills. Mind you, nature has a way of correcting shortages and by the time you read this, it might be pouring.

The other evening I attended the West Berks annual presentation ceremony of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, which was held this year at Pangbourne College. The award is not another youth organisation to which young people belong, but simply a programme of leisure-time activities. It challenges all young people between the ages of 14 and 25, throughout the world, to serve others, acquire new skills, experience adventure, and make new friends, young and old. Participants can develop existing interests or try something new. Whatever they choose to do for their Award, they can find enjoyment, excitement and satisfaction. The Award is not competitive, and ANYONE with the necessary perseverance, enterprise and effort can gain an Award.

As you might have guessed I have a bit of a passion for the scheme, and I am a Council representative on the organising committee. Although I was

there in that role, I was also there as a proud parent watching Andrew and Georgie, my youngest two, collecting their bronze awards.

Another committee I serve on is the Adventure Dolphin management committee and I was delighted that they have secured – in the recent budget – funding for a new, much needed, replacement building. The capital bid has been approved for £1.1 million with the understanding that the Committee will raise £350,000. The main build will take place in 2007 although the project will not be finished until 2008.

Mind you, I expect much more to come to the Eastern Area in the coming years... watch this space! However not everything in the budget was met with universal support. Spending £25,000 on hiring an extra PR officer to make us look good seems a waste of money. We will only be judged on what actually happens on the ground, and trying to make that happen is, I can assure you, not an easy task!

Tim Metcalfe

Party in the Park 2005

**22 May
Sport in
the Park**

Have some fun!

***All in Bucknell's
Meadow***

3.30-5.30 p.m.

**17 July
Praise in
the Park**

**26 June
Crafts in
the Park**

Bring a picnic

Parking available at St. Mary's Church
Organised by St. Mary's Church and other local groups

PURLEY PLAYERS

Purley Players will be commemorating the 60th Anniversary of VE Day at the Barn, Purley on Thames on Saturday, 14 May 2005 at 7.30 p.m. The Box Office opens on 4 April and tickets are £10. These can be obtained from Mike Adnett on 0118 962 5760 (email: mike.adnett@ntlworld.com).

The evening will take the form of a 1940s party, dance and supper. The cast will be dressed in costumes of the time and the audience will be invited to do the same. There will be sketches, songs and dancing to Glenn Miller music and some of the Big Bands of the era.

Also, **an evening concert by the Caerphilly Male Voice Choir** will take place on Saturday 4 June in St Mary's Church Hall, Purley on Thames. Tickets are £10.50 and the box office opens on 25 April. Details and tickets can be obtained from Jean Chudleigh on 0118 984 2563 or Sara Lang on 0118 954 8052.

FAMILY FUN ON THE FARM

Bring all the family along to The Black Barn, Rushall Farm, Back Lane, Bradfield, on Sunday 17 April at 1.30 p.m., for an afternoon of FUN.

Join a Guided Ramble or Amble (two lengths & speeds) through wonderful Bluebell Woods

Visit the Lambing Sheds to cuddle the New Born Lambs
(Pregnant ladies are advised not to visit the lambs)

Hop on the hay bales for an exhilarating Tractor/Trailer Ride

Relax, with views over the fabulous Pang Valley, whilst enjoying Afternoon Tea

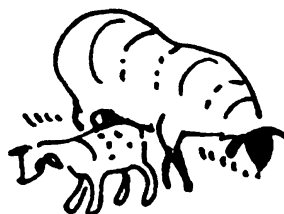
Soup, hotdogs, teas & cakes will be on sale in The Old Stables

TICKETS ON SALE NOW – Adult £4, Child £2, Under 3's free

Available from Nicki Woodward, 984 2112
or call in to Cherry Acre, Purley Village, nr infant school.

Proceeds from tickets to The John Simmonds Trust
(via Rushall Farm)

Proceeds from refreshments to St Mary's Church.



SPRINGTIME IN THE GARDEN

SUNDAY 3 APRIL

A final reminder that you are invited to come along to Cherry Acre, Purley Village (near infant school) between 1.30 p.m. and 4 p.m., to wander around the garden in springtime.

Spring flowering bulbs: Snakes Head Fritillary in the meadow; Primroses & Cowslips naturalising throughout the garden; Wander along the Rose Walkway, or, go round in circles in the new Thyme Time Trail.

There will be activity areas for the children, and plenty of peaceful places for the adults to sit. **Tea & cake and excellent plant stall.**

Entry to the garden is by donation to St Mary's Church (suggested minimum £2.50 per adult)

Nicki Woodward 984 2112

WEST BERKS SCRABBLE® CLUB

We are a Purley based Club about to celebrate our 11th year.

Since we moved to The Barn last September we have been delighted to welcome new members, mostly from the village. Frequently newcomers see faces they recognise – or even neighbours – on their first visit; all amusing and very friendly.

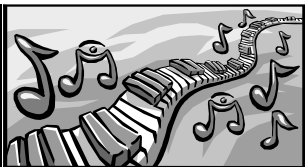
In conversation with people, so often I am told they like to play Scrabble at home but "I'm sure I'm not clever enough to play Club Scrabble." Don't believe you. Come along and see for yourself what a friendly, helpful mix of people we are, who all love to play the game of Scrabble.

Get yourself a new hobby and meet more people. We look forward to welcoming you.

We meet Tuesday evenings in The Barn	7.30 – 10.00 p.m.
and also Thursday afternoons	2.00 – 5.00 p.m.

For further information telephone Ian or Elizabeth on 0118 984 5045

INSTRUMENTS FOR SALE



Casio MT-110 Electric Keyboard, complete with adapter and 3 instruction books: £75 o.n.o.

Yamaha FG400A Guitar with soft carrying case: £50 o.n.o.

These instruments have been used very little.

0118 941 5301



1ST PURLEY AND PANGBOURNE

A big **thank you** to everyone who supported our Table Top Sale on 26 February at The Barn - either by having a table or coming along.

We will have raised over £400 for our International Project, which is helping to fund work for Ugandan Scouts and their families. The wider project has helped to build schools, libraries and training facilities. With the money we have raised, it is hoped we will be able to buy a pig (or maybe two!) for a family in Uganda: this not only provides them with food in the long term but also income from the piglets, and a greater understanding of animal care and husbandry.

Back home, the project encourages the children (Beaver Scouts, Cub Scouts and Scouts aged 6-14 years old) to think beyond life in Purley and have an awareness of other countries, their lifestyle and culture and the problems they face.

So – many thanks once again – and look out for further dates as we may hold another Table Top Sale in the future!

1st Purley and Pangbourne Scout Group

NOT A LOT OF PEOPLE KNOW THIS...

Some of you will have received a leaflet entitled 'Your Shout' which includes a survey about something called 'The South East Plan'. You probably thought: "What's that got to do with me. I don't even live in the South East."

Unfortunately, according to the Government's rather peculiar sense of geography, we do. In fact – and (with apologies to Michael Caine) not a lot of people know this – we fall under the umbrella of 'GOSE', the Government Office for the South East, and 'SEERA', the South East England Regional Assembly.

Ah! I hear you saying. Surely, Regional Assemblies aren't going to happen. Wasn't there a referendum in the North East, which demonstrated that nobody wants them? Well yes, there was, and yes, it did. The trouble is, they already exist. What's more, these expensive, unwanted, un-elected bodies are having a bigger and bigger say in our lives... right down to dictating the number of houses which will have to be built in our area over the next 20 years.

Unfortunately, the current consultation doesn't ask us about that. The housing targets which individual planning authorities like West Berkshire will be ordered to meet won't be set until later in the year. All we are being asked to comment on at this stage are overall numbers for the whole of the region.

And pretty scary numbers they are... 25,500 houses per year at the lower end of the scale and 32,000 at the upper. Mind you, to be fair to the Assembly, these are lower than the figures the Government is asking for. The lowest figure is actually status quo – the average number which have been built over the last five years – and the middle figure, 28,800 per year, is the target which is not being achieved at the moment.

Again to be fair to the Assembly, it does set out in the draft Plan to make Central Government aware of the level of infrastructure development, which will be necessary to support this level of growth. Sadly, as demonstrated not so far away by the axing of funding for the M4 Junction 11 improvement scheme, that investment is unlikely to be forthcoming.

It is all too tempting to ignore this consultation process, but that won't make the Plan go away. Your Parish Council will be submitting comments based on the views you expressed so strongly in response to the Village Plan questionnaire. As individuals you can play your part by returning the 'Your Shout' survey – copies of which can be obtained from the Parish Office – by 15 April or, even better, by expressing your views in a personal letter to the South East Regional Assembly, Berkeley House, Cross Lanes, Guildford GU1 1UN.

You can find out more about the Plan at www.southeast-ra.gov.uk/southeastplan, by phoning 01483 555 208 and asking for a copy, or by visiting the Parish Office.

David Betts
Chairman, Purley on Thames Parish Council
Email: ppc.chair@ntlworld.com



The Princess Royal Trust
for Carers

DO YOU LOOK AFTER A RELATIVE, FRIEND OR NEIGHBOUR WHO IS ILL, DISABLED OR FRAIL?

Then you are a carer and we would like to hear from you.

The Princess Royal Trust Carers Service provides support and information about many aspects of caring and your role as a carer.

We offer someone to talk to about your caring situation; information on services; support groups and social activities; training and leisure opportunities; a quarterly newsletter; a telephone helpline; home visits and appointments at our office in Newbury.

For more information contact:

Christine Eeley or Mary Batstone Princess Royal Trust Carers Service
01635 49109 westberks.carers@btopenworld.com

PURLEY W.I.

ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting was held at Memorial Hall, Glebe Road, Purley at 7.30 p.m. on March 10 2005.

We presented Birthday Posies and, after the usual business, we continued with our yearly detailed report.

Financial Report

Margaret Martin, our Treasurer, (such people are born not cultivated) explained that, due to various moneymaking activities, we were in a healthy state. Every year we wonder at the handling of W.I. monies and the beauty is Margaret always makes the books balance – thank you. Mr. George Critchell has been our auditor and we would like to ask him to look after our books again. (George – we love you to bits).

Committee's Annual Report

This was read by Bernardine Perry, in the absence of Shirley Lewis. We were pleasantly surprised at the amount of activity that has taken place during 2004. Well done. The report was approved by Sylvia Conquest and seconded by Betty Hunter.

President's Report

Daphne Howard, our President, thanked Ella Petrie for her constant hard drive in preparing a varied programme. Ella plans the meetings, reminds the would-be speakers and then has difficulty in getting them to Purley. More signs required please – Council Officers are you there? With a happy and co-operative committee, an institute must work and Daphne's thanks to all concerned were appreciated.

Gillian McDonald praised our President for keeping us, and her gang, in order and we willed Daphne to "delegate" should she experience any health hiccup. Surely this should apply to all organisations – do delegate – more hands make less work. This report was approved by Kath Hodge and seconded by Ella Petrie.

Any Other Business

Were you a Land Girl during World War II? If you were, the Reading Museum for English Rural Life would like to hear your experiences.

New Committee

New and not so new Committee members were elected and this happened with harmless persuasion. Good luck Ladies.

After all this serious and gruelling "stuff," chocolate cake, cups of tea and a good natter were more than welcome. No speaker this month so we

finished with our yearly Beetle Drive. How come so much energy and noise can result from a simple game? Good fun don't you think Ladies?

Flower Competition

1st Kath Hodge

2nd Ella Petrie

3rd Sylvia Conquest

Next month's speaker will be Rita Lenney on Indian Head and Shoulder Massage. The competition: Turban Head Dress (materials to be supplied). The meeting will be held on Wednesday, 13 April at 7.30 p.m. in Purley Memorial Hall, Glebe Road, Purley. Visitors are welcome.

Sylvia Conquest
941 1936

EDUCATION?

I see that more adult education classes are planned for Purley. This is a good step and further education in all forms is to be recommended for every stage of life.

Each New Year one of my resolutions was to take an Advanced Level course in English. So, one September day saw me joining a class of sixteen year old students at Bracknell College for my very first lesson since leaving school over twenty years earlier.

In those days, classrooms were organised very strictly with lines of desks for the pupils and a large desk and blackboard at the front for the teacher. This room bore little relationship to that plan. There were Formica tables loosely arranged in a circle and I, not wanting to look too much of a novice, was at a loss to know where to sit. A lady of about my age and looking equally puzzled appeared so I asked her whether we could sit together. "You can if you like dear, but I'm the teacher!" Humbled, I changed class by the next lesson. (I got a very reasonable A' Level the following August).

Dorothy West

THE WEDNESDAY CLUB

The Wednesday Club is pleased to welcome new members to its meetings, held on alternate Wednesdays at the Purley Sports and Social Club from 2.15 to 4.15 p.m. We extend a warm welcome to an informal and sociable gathering. Our meetings in April will be held on 6th and 20th of the month. The club welcomes both ladies and gentlemen.

Rita Denman
984 4682



PURLEY ON THAMES CC

DO YOU RECOGNIZE ANYBODY IN THIS PICTURE?



Back Row (left to right) Les Annetts, ?, ?, ?, Stephen ?, Jack Iles, Fred King (Umpire)

Front Row (left to right) Eric Gibbons, Fitchou? (Bungalow Stores?), ?, Benny Williams, Freddie Saunders (Trenthams?)

This picture is believed to be of Purley Cricket Club in the 1960s - however the date is unknown as are some of the players - can you help? Do you recognise anybody or have additional information.

The club is trying to build up a picture of its history so if you have any information, pictures or simply memories of the Club or cricket in the village could you contact Martin Bishop on 0118 945 3117

OUTDOOR TRAINING

Purley on Thames CC pre-season preparations continue in early April as training sessions for both adults and juniors move outside to their home ground at the Recreation Ground, Goosecroft Lane, Beech Road, Purley on Thames.

Outdoor training for all will commence week of the 11 April 2005.

Junior Outdoor Training (from 6.30 p.m.)

TEAM	Training Night
Starters (6 years upwards)	Tuesday
U9	Tuesday
U11	Wednesday
U13	Tuesday
U15	Thursday
U17	Thursday

Adult Outdoor Training

Thursday evenings from 6.30 p.m.

CRICKET EQUIPMENT SALE CLUB REGISTRATION EVENING

On Tuesday 12 April from 7.30 p.m., the Cricket Club (in conjunction with a local equipment supplier) will be holding an equipment sale at the Recreation Ground, Goosecroft Lane, Beech Road, Purley on Thames.

All existing members and newcomers welcome.

For further information about Purley on Thames CC, or if you are interested in playing cricket at any level, please contact Martin Bishop, Club Chairman on 0118 945 3117, or look at the club website:

<http://purleyonthames.play-cricket.com>

RECYCLING OF UNWANTED PAINT – A VILLAGE PLAN INITIATIVE

Like me, do you have a garage containing half full paint tins, which will never be used?

Purley on Thames Parish Council, along with Pangbourne Parish Council, are offering to help us free of charge. Come along to Pangbourne Primary School (Purley end of Reading Road) on Saturday 7 May from 10.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m. with your tins. You may also be able to buy paint there and any funds raised will go to the school.

So, if you do have any surplus, usable paint, do bring it along on 7 May. This is what is called recycling or reusing – certainly more sensible than throwing it in the bin.

If you have any questions or queries please contact Alex Stott on 0118 941 9186 or email: vastott@aol.com

PURLEY ON THAMES PARISH COUNCIL



Thanks to Councillors, members of the Pikeslaw Working Party and the Thames Valley Police the legal information on scooters printed in the last edition of the Parish News was distributed to all Purley households in the form of a leaflet. Until they ran out a Major Emergencies & You card prepared by all the local district councils was left as well. The Parish Office has a limited number of both available if anyone missed out and also copies of the consultation document for the South East Plan mentioned elsewhere.

The Pikeslaw Working Party is intending to hold a tidy up of the wooded area on Saturday 16 April and invites anyone interested to join them. One of the tasks will be the removal of sycamore saplings, which has just been approved by the Tree Officer at West Berkshire Council. Please meet there at 10.00 a.m. and wear warm clothing and stout gloves.

In reviewing the street name policy, it was suggested that commemoration of the local dead in the two world wars might be a nice idea. Views or opinions on this would be appreciated.

West Berkshire Citizens Advice Bureau is planning to open a weekly advice session at the Boathouse Surgery in Pangbourne from June 2005. Further information will be provided when available.

In view of the increasing usage of the Barn the Management Committee are about to appoint Jean Chudleigh as Barn Manager to ease problems with the administration and contact details will be published on the notice boards and in the magazine when this is finalised.

The AWE pipeline, taking treated wastewater with low levels of radioactivity, from Aldermaston to the Thames at Purley has been closed. The last discharges were made in the first half of March and a ceremony to mark its closure was held at Aldermaston on 16 March. The waste, which used to be discharged through the pipeline, will now be treated on site to separate the radioactive particles, which will then be subjected to a cementation process and transported to Cumbria.

The Strategic Rail Authority in consulting on proposals to address capacity utilisation on the Great Western Mainline. Further information can be found on their website www.sra.gov.uk under consultations.

By the time this is published, all local organisations that were awarded a small grant in the annual pump priming process, should have received their grant cheque. Once again, the amounts applied for vastly exceeded the available budget so not all organisations were successful. As this situation is unlikely to improve in the future, I have been researching alternative sources of assistance and would recommend any organisation looking for funding to contact the following:

Awards for All (Lottery)

<http://www.awardsforall.org.uk>
01483 462943
(postcards available from the Parish Office)

Community Action West Berkshire

Funding Advisor Shelly Hambrecht
shelly.hambrecht@cawb.org.uk
01635 523861
(Mon/Tues/Wed between 9.30 & 4.30)

West Berkshire Council

<http://www.westberks.gov.uk>
(check under Grants for Community Grants or Grantnet)

Brian J. Smith
Clerk to Purley on Thames Parish Council

The office is located near the tennis courts and is open:

Mondays (not BH): 5.45 p.m. - 8.30 p.m.
Including an opportunity to meet
Councillors between 6 p.m. & 7 p.m.

Thursdays: 9.00 a.m. to 3.15 p.m.

Purley on Thames Parish Council
Parish Office
Goosecroft Lane
off Beech Road
Purley on Thames
Reading
RG8 8DR

Tel/fax: 0118 984 4507
E-mail: clerk@purleypc.wanadoo.co.uk

I'd really
love to
see...

Bucknell's Meadow **Have your say**

Wouldn't it
be great
if...

Purley on Thames Parish Council invites
you to a Public Meeting to discuss the
future of Bucknell's Meadow

Why isn't
there a...

On Tuesday 10 May
At 7.30 p.m.
St. Mary's Church
St. Mary's Avenue

Why is it
always such
a mess?

Everyone Welcome



“Walk the Famous London Bridges and help promote kidney awareness and organ donation.”

London Bridges Walk – 21 May 2005

Help raise kidney awareness and organ donation by walking eight of the London Bridges on Saturday 21 May 2005.

The Bridges Walk starts and finishes at Potters Fields on the south side of Tower Bridge and walkers will snake across the eight bridges, including Tower Bridge, London Bridge, Southwark Bridge, Millennium Bridge and Blackfriars Bridge.

Registration fee is £5.00 per walker, there is no minimum sponsorship but walkers are encouraged to raise as much sponsorship as they can. Proceeds will be used to further the work of The National Kidney Research Fund and help improve the lives of people living with kidney disease.

At present, there are over 180,000 people in the UK suffering with some form of kidney condition and 35,000 are on renal replacement therapies, which include dialysis and transplantation. As yet, there are still no cures.

Community Fundraising Manager, Elizabeth Wright, says, “The walk is a wonderful opportunity to view the many historical sites along the Thames and the route offers great views of the London. It is open to anyone who wants to help make a difference in the kidney community.

For more information or to take part in the London Bridges Walk please call The National Kidney Research Fund on 0800 783 2973 or visit www.nkrf.org.uk.

PURLEY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY TALK

On Wednesday, 16 March, Mr. Victor Scott gave us a very interesting slide show and talk on *Springtime in the Cape*. It was encouraging to the Committee to see over thirty people attending this meeting.

SPRING SHOW

This will take place on Saturday, 2 April in Purley Memorial Hall and will be open to the public from 2.30 p.m. until 4 p.m.



PLANT SALE

This will take place in the Purley Memorial Hall car park on Saturday, 21 May from 9.30 a.m. until 11.30 a.m. (approx.). Bedding plants will be available.

COACH TRIP

If you are interested in a trip to R.H.S. Gardens, Wisley or the HDRA Organic gardens at Ryton, Warwickshire in early July, please put your names down on the list in the Trading Store.

TRADING

The Trading Store (in the Memorial Hall car park) is open Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. until 11 a.m. If you find you are unable to get to the Trading Store during the opening times, you may telephone your order to Alex Stott on 941 9186 or e-mail: vastott@aol.com. Membership of the Society is only £1.50 for a year. If you have not yet renewed your membership for 2005, we would be grateful if you could do so as soon as possible.

Happy gardening!

*Marion Dabbs
942 2349*

DO YOU WANT TO GET AWAY FROM IT ALL?

This spacious apartment constructed in 2004, sleeping four people, is on a prestige condominium of 15 privately owned apartments. It is set in beautiful landscaped gardens with its own large swimming pool. The area of Sesmarias is semi-rural with all low-rise buildings. It is a quiet and peaceful setting yet is only 5 minutes walk to the secluded cove of Castelo beach and only 5 minutes drive to Salgados golf course, one of the most challenging golf courses in the Algarve.



There is a small supermarket nearby and a range of good restaurants within walking distance.

2005 prices per week for rental of the apartment: £300-£550

For more information and a colour brochure with photographs, contact:

Pauline Cook

0118 941 4501

pauline.cook56@btopenworld.com

10% Discount for Readers of the Purley Parish News

PROJECT PURLEY

Project Purley welcomed one of its most distinguished guest speakers of recent years to the Barn on Friday, February 12th, when Lesley Grout came to talk to us about St George's Chapel in Windsor Castle. Mr Grout was the BBC Television 'Mastermind' champion of 1981 when his specialised subject was indeed Saint George's Chapel, and he proved to be a most entertaining speaker. He showed a wide collection of slides and rattled off facts about the chapel like machine-gun fire, so much so that the audience almost felt inclined to duck at times but his delivery was precise, unhesitating and laced with humour, so that everyone remained attentive and each member was able to assimilate many important details.

Every English castle has a chapel in proportionate size, and the first chapel at Windsor Castle was built by Henry III in 1240. The extension to something approaching its present form began in 1475 during the reign of Edward IV, but the money set aside for the project ran out in the early 1500s, and it could only be completed as a result of a bequest from Sir Reginald Grey. The building has been added to, restored, redecorated and rebuilt in the succeeding centuries. One of the most significant and topical* events in history took place in the early years, when the Lord Chamberlain's men gave the first performance of Shakespeare's comedy, 'The Merry Wives of Windsor' in the Vicar's Hall.

Henry VIII had the vaulting of the roof finished in stone, and decorated with the arms of his knights, but the chapel underwent its greatest transformation during the reign of Queen Victoria, who turned it into what Mr Grout described as a "glittering shine, a mediaeval body concealed in a nineteenth century dress." The memorial to her husband is so raised and decorated that it can only be properly viewed from above.

The Chapel contains memorials to several foreigners, including Louis, only son of Napoleon III, who was killed fighting for his adopted country in the Zulu war, and George V King of Hanover whose last request to be buried at Windsor was granted by Queen Victoria. All British Monarchs since George III have been buried in the Royal Chapel except for Edward VIII who, as the abdicated Duke of Windsor, had his funeral service there, but was buried at Frogmore. In more modern times the George VI Chapel was added in 1968, and now contains the memorial to his wife, Queen Elizabeth (1900 - 2002). As recently as February 2005, a memorial to his younger daughter Princess Margaret, in the form of a Caithness stone, has been added to his chapel.

The talk concluded with reference to some of the decorations and furnishings within Saint George's Chapel. John Piper designed the most modern glass windows, and Beryl Dean's embroidery and needlework are responsible for the many panels and curtains in the Chapel. Sir Christopher Wren, a Windsor resident, was the architect of a little of the interior design, and many of the statuettes, including the Virgin Mary, are

by the sculptor Gilbert. The west window contains all the ancient glass of the Chapel, which also has more carved wooden misericords - 94 in total - than any other church or chapel in England. Mr Grout highlighted several of these and one in particular featuring a nubile young lady accompanied by a rather tubby monk who, as our speaker delicately put it, was waiting for "a bit of how's your father".

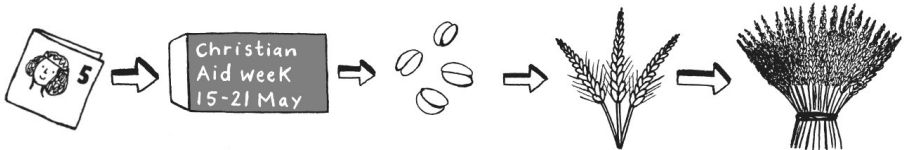
Before the Reformation, Saint George's Chapel was used for seven services a day, but this number has now reduced to three. Queen Elizabeth II uses it only rarely, preferring to visit her private chapel in Windsor Great Park when she is in residence in Windsor. It was intended that the Chapel should be the venue for the forthcoming wedding of Prince Charles to Camilla Parker-Bowles, but this will now take place on April 8 at Windsor Guildhall due to problems in obtaining a wedding licence at the Chapel.

So Mr Grant's hour long talk finished on a topical note and prolonged applause signified how much we had enjoyed listening to him.

David Downs.

The next meeting of Project Purley will be on April 15 at 8 p.m. at The Barn, Goosecroft Lane, when Jean Debney's subject will be *The Manors of Purley*.

*Reference to *The Merry Wives of Windsor* is especially topical as Shakespeare's comedy will be performed in The Barn, by the Rain or Shine Theatre Company, on Friday June 24 2005. If you would like more information or wish to order tickets, please contact David Downs on 0118 942 4167. Profits from the performance will be donated to the Thames Valley Air Ambulance, and we shall be grateful for offers of raffle prizes, which you may care to donate and which will increase the amount we can raise.



Each May, a group of collectors from St. Mary's church and the local community go around the parish, collecting money for Christian Aid. The money is used to help poor communities around the world, providing equipment and training that enable them to become more self-sufficient in the competitive world in which we all live. If you would like to help with the collection around Purley, delivering and collecting the familiar red envelopes, then please contact us. All help is welcome, whether it is for two houses or two hundred!

Pam & Matthew Slingsby
961 5585

PURLEY PATHFINDERS

A WALKING GROUP FOR LADIES

The end of our February snowdrop walks caused some excitement as we awoke to a snowy morning. For those who braved the journey to Swyncombe, the reward was to be a super walk in wonderful Chiltern countryside. A climb at the start gave us lovely views across the landscape which was rapidly reverting from white to green as the sun came up to warm the earth. We meandered down through a pretty copse and, soon, were striding along the Icknield Way with the elegant 18th century Britwell Salome House across open fields. Our uninterrupted view stretched across the Oxfordshire plain, with the towers of Didcot, and the distinct tree-topped hills of Wittenham Clumps standing out on the skyline.



A pleasant wander through a Chiltern beech wood brought us to a glade in which to enjoy our break. We left the Icknield Way to continue our walk along the snowdrop-lined Ridgeway path. This led us to the 11th century church at Swyncombe where the earlier snow in the churchyard was replaced by a white carpet of snowdrops, interspersed with yellow aconites – a splendid sight on which to end our walk.

The arrival of March heralded the start of our walks looking out for the many wild flowers associated with springtime. It should have come as no surprise, therefore, to make our way to Streatley in snow! A merry group gathered, cheered by the sunshine, and, so, with cheerful anticipation we began our walk in the National Trust's woodland, The Holies. Our climbing path soon levelled out, and, on reaching an opening in the trees, we stood to take in the lovely views across the Goring gap. A grassy path soon led us to a pleasant winding woodland path beside which the flowers of primroses smiled from within their collars of green leaves. We took our break at the site of the Stone Mazes which we enjoyed tackling in the surprisingly mild air. Leaving the wooded Holies, our next National Trust area was, in contrast, very open. We strode across the top of Lardon Chase with a wonderful view of the meandering Thames, snaking its way through the countryside.. We called into Lough Down to extend our view even further – from Wittenham Clumps and Didcot our eyes took in the lush landscape through Moulsoford, North and South Stoke, Goring, and on along to Pangbourne, with the water tower in



Tilehurst perched on the skyline. Taking this memorable sight with us, we bowled down the hill to The Bull where we were warmly greeted for lunch.

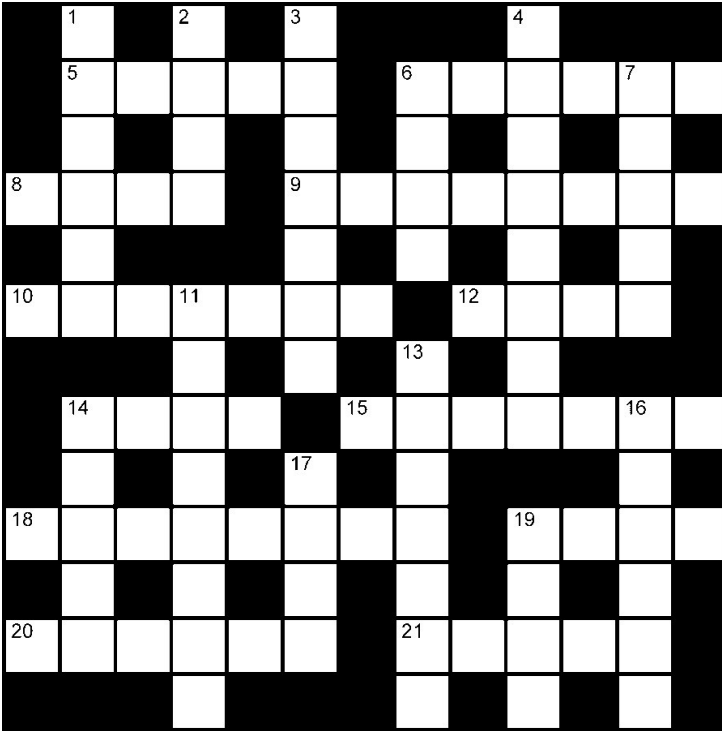
With the sun shining down on us, we set out to explore the lovely area of Inkpen, taking in two BBOWT sites. The first proved wonderfully wild, being an important heathland site supporting a wide variety of birds and plant life. We passed a pheasant cosily settled under the drooping branches of a tree, and we enjoyed meandering amongst cheerful yellow broom as our route took us to Ashton's Pool. This peaceful water hole for wildlife stood amongst bulrushes and other water-loving plants. We left this BBOWT and continued towards the next, enjoying the history of the area on the way as we passed a converted chapel, dated 1872, crossed 'Weaver's Lane', dropped down to cross a stream in a dip known as 'Sheepwash', and made our way to 'Pottery Lane'. We spotted three buzzards patrolling the skies, and several spring bunnies in the fields, and our view was to Ham Hill in Wiltshire, and to the Coombe Gibbet, originally erected in 1676, standing out clearly on the hilltop from where several brave people launched themselves, suspended from hand gliders. Arriving at our second BBOWT, a Site of Scientific Interest, we walked in single file through a meadow in which we were privileged to see a fine display of wild Mediterranean Crocuses bursting forth from amongst the rough grass. Being one of only two sites in the country to contain these splendid flowers, believed to have been brought here by the Knight's Templar over 500 years ago, we felt we had seen a very special sight, especially with them having a very short season. With great satisfaction, we made our way back to the Crown & Garter for lunch.

A pleasant bridleway, high above Whitchurch, took us past some lovely cottages sat within their pretty gardens which still had bunches of snowdrops flowering amongst the new season daffodils. After skirting a dell, we crossed an open field to, eventually, join a lovely bridleway which dropped down between trees. At a lane, our roller coaster walk continued with a climb which took us above Elvendon Priory. We paused to look at its lovely setting before heading down the field to the footpath, which was to take us up beside the buildings, and then between its banks of famous daffodils. The recent cold weather left many of the flowers in bud, but some clumps gave bold splashes of sunny yellow to cheer us on our way. Our walk continued through the Great Chalk Wood to emerge on a lane which gave us stunning views along the Thames and to the hillside beyond, spotting Basildon House and the buildings of Lower Basildon as landmarks. Taking in this lovely view, we ended our wonderfully varied spring walk.

Our Spring Flower walks are to continue with a special trip to The Forest of Dean to see the Wild Daffodils, then, after the Easter break, we will be out in the woods to witness the arrival of the Bluebells. Lovely!

Nicki Woodward
984 2112

CROSSWORD



Across

- 5 An exclusive group of people (5)
- 6 Densely wooded area (6)
- 8 Afforded (4)
- 9 The worship of idols (8)
- 10 Father of James and John (7)
- 12 Eat (4)
- 14 Domain (4)
- 15 Rein (7)
- 18 Outpouring (8)
- 19 Used to be (4)
- 20 Mediterranean evergreen shrub (6)
- 21 Forepart (5)

Down

- 1 Elders of Israel, part of the Sanhedrin (6)
- 2 This place (4)
- 3 Paul received 39 of these (7)
- 4 Bringing into existence (8)
- 6 Stream (4)
- 7 Attend to (5)
- 11 Forever (8)
- 13 Enlarge (7)
- 14 Intense suffering (5)
- 16 Guarantee (6)
- 17 A particular point in time (4)
- 19 Small forest (4)

I have had more trouble with myself
than with any other man I have ever met.

Dwight Moody



PANGBOURNE & DISTRICT VOLUNTEER CENTRE

If you need help with transport, or know of anyone else who does, please contact us.

Volunteer drivers always needed! Do you have a few spare hours? Car drivers are needed to transport clients to hospitals, also for local journeys to doctors, etc. Help in the office is also required. Office opening hours: Mon/Wed/Thurs/Fri 9.30 a.m. to 11.30 a.m. Please come and join us.

Call 984 4586 or pop into The Committee Room, Pangbourne Village Hall.

Purley Parish News

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I welcome all contributions to this magazine, particularly on local issues and events. Contributions can either be delivered in writing or by email. Please note however, I reserve the right to edit contributions to suit space availability and to maintain consistency of style (font etc). Local event adverts can be accommodated but space is limited; landscape format copy is preferred in this case as it allows a 1/2 page entry to be published. If specially preparing content, please set your page size to A5.

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If you are new to the area and would like to subscribe to Purley Parish News, please contact the Circulation Manager, Steve Corrigan.

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